

22 days  
until... *Air* Amistad  
Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

# Border Eagle

Vol. 53, No. 12 Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas March 25, 2005

## Two XLers selected for promotion to captain

Compiled from staff reports

The Air Force announced the names of 845 first lieutenants selected for promotion to captain March 18.

Laughlin had two officers eligible for selection during this promotion cycle, and both were selected for a 100-percent selection rate. Those selected were 1st Lts. Kate Black, 86th Flying Training Squadron, and Samuel Sterlin, now stationed at Randolph Air Force Base.

The Air Force selection rate was 99.4 percent with 845 of the 850 first lieutenants eligible being selected.

In Air Education and Training Command, the rate was 99.3 percent with 739 selected of 744 eligible.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi

### While the sun shines...

Emily and Drew, children of Lisa and Capt. Matt Ringlein, a student in Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 06-06, spend their leisure time at the family camp playground Wednesday. Emily, Drew and other base children, who are on Spring Break took advantage of the nice weather to have fun and relax with their parents outdoors.

## Military pay recognizes troops' contributions

By Gerry Gilmore  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — Since the Sept. 11 attacks, Defense Department leaders and U.S. legislators “have worked together to increase servicemembers’ basic pay by more than 21 percent,” a senior DOD official told House Armed Services Committee members March 16.

DOD officials remain “committed to taking care of servicemembers and their families through appropri-

ate compensation while members are deployed and serving their country in dangerous locations around the world,” said Charles S. Abell, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, before the military personnel subcommittee.

U.S. troops are slated for a 3.1 percent across-the-board pay raise this coming year, Mr. Abell said.

Additionally, he said the department has met its goal of eliminating troops’ average out-of-pocket housing costs by 2005. In fact, he said

military housing allowances are 41 percent greater than they were in 2001.

Troops serving in dangerous overseas locations receive various types of tax relief, depending upon rank and income, as well as additional compensation in view of their contributions in fighting and sustaining America’s fight against terrorism, Mr. Abell said.

For example, eligible enlisted troops deployed to combat zones have their military pay exempted from federal income tax, he said. Besides their

See ‘Pay,’ page 4

### Newslines

#### Cell phone usage at gates

The 47th Security Forces Squadron asks motorists not to use their cell phones while navigating through base entry points.

This is a safety issue since people arriving at the gates must be able to navigate the barriers, produce I.D. cards and answer controllers’ questions without distraction.

Drivers are asked to either terminate their calls or simply lay their phones down until past the entry control point.

#### Town hall meeting set

The 47th Medical Group commander Col. Laura Torres-Reyes will host a town hall meeting Tuesday at 5 p.m. in the base theater.

All Tricare beneficiaries are invited.

For more information on the meeting, call 1st Lt. Lauren Chavez at 298-6312.

#### AFAF burger burn set

An Air Force Assistance Fund burger burn is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Fiesta Center patio. There will be free burger, chips and drinks.

All base members are invited.

For more information, call 2nd Lt. Heather Street at 298-5075.

### Deployment stats

Deployed:	18
Returning in 30 days:	0
Deploying in 30 days:	0

### Mission status

Mission capable rate  
(As of Tuesday)

T-1, 87.3%	T-38A, 71.5%
T-6, 90.8%	T-38C, 76.5%

## Success: ‘not being afraid to lose’ attitude



### Commander's Corner

**Col. Keith Traster**  
47th Flying Training Wing  
vice commander

America is a society that revels in victory. Let's face it, we love winners!

As a society, we pretty much worship our heroes, whether it is in sports, business, politics or our military veterans. While this is a healthy attitude for the most part, we must always be careful in teaching our youth that while winning is great, it is not so important that we should be afraid to compete because we may not win.

One of my favorite sports quotes illustrates this point:

"I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed." - Michael Jordan

Some very wise words from arguably the world's best-ever basketball player!

If you look at successful people, you will learn more in studying their failures than their successes.

Truly successful people take adversity in stride, learn from it, and turn their setbacks into the foundation for future success. In other words, they have a winning attitude.

History is full of examples of people who took initial failures and turned them into the catalyst that propelled them to later greatness. Perhaps, the best example is Abraham Lincoln. From business failures, to lost elections and personal tragedy, Lincoln was able to take his failures and learn from them as he honed and improved his leadership abilities.

Eventually, he became the leader the United States needed to carry us through the most critical and dangerous period in our history.

As leaders and mentors, we must cultivate, develop, and teach this same mindset in all of our people. To achieve continual organizational excellence we must encourage our folks not to

**"Truly successful people take adversity in stride, learn from it, and turn their setbacks into the foundation for future success. In other words, they have a winning attitude."**

be afraid to "take the game-winning shot." Or as the coach in the movie, "The Replacements" put it, "True champions want the ball when the game is on the line."

Do you, as an individual, want the ball? Do you as a leader develop this "give me the ball" attitude in your subordinates? If you don't, then you are doing yourself, your troops, and your unit a disservice.

As one of the leaders of the special forces unit that suffered through the disaster of Desert One, the failed Iranian hostage rescue in 1979, put it, "The greatest failure of all is the failure to try."

If the U.S. Air Force is to continue as the premier air and space force in the world, we must continue to foster this "not being afraid to lose" attitude as we move ahead and evolve in our ever-changing world.

## XLer says freedom agrees with Iraqis

**By 2nd Lt. Eric Johnston**  
47th Communications Squadron  
plans flight commander

I left Del Rio Feb. 8 and made my way to San Antonio, Baltimore, Frankfurt, Qatar, and finally just north of Balad, Iraq. After arriving I was told this place used to be like Iraq's Air Force Academy.

If you look carefully, you can see some similarities in the athletic complex and in what used to be classrooms, offices and dormitories, now inhabited by coalition forces (mostly U.S. Army, Air Force and a lot of contractors.)

I don't see many Iraqis on the main base, but we share a

compound with a small unit on Syverson Base.

Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force – Arabian Peninsula shares its fence with many trainees in Iraq's new army. They also provide stringent force protection at our gates.

They are learning more English all the time and teaching a lot of American military members a little Arabic.

I would hate to say they are being Americanized but a lot of the customs the intel guys briefed us about have been overtaken or altogether abandoned. They've been replaced with the more laid-back American wave and the occasional peace sign. Sometimes, even the "whatssup" head

nod and the index-finger-off-the-steering-wheel-Texas-traveler's salute. But, it's their smiles that really impress me.

Every time I see those grins as we pass by in our custom-painted, eternally muddy, Land Rover Defender, I wonder if they smiled much last year or the year before. I am guessing not nearly as much or as wide as they do now.

I hope the smiles are from their newfound freedom and not from the monstrous speed-bumps they just installed between the serpentine of jersey barriers at the gate. Some people have trouble stalling vehicles out as

See 'Freedom,' page 3

### Border Eagle

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#### Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262.

**Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Submissions can be e-mailed to: [olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil) or [sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil).

#### Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.



**Actionline**

**Col. Tod Wolters**  
47th Flying Training  
Wing commander



**Call 298-5351 or email  
actionline@laughlin.af.mil**

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By including your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also useful if more information is needed to pursue your inquiry. We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved. Please keep e-mails brief.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions. Below are telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a

<b>AAFES</b>	298-3176
<b>Chapel</b>	298-5111
<b>Civil Engineer</b>	298-5252
<b>Civilian Personnel</b>	298-5299
<b>Clinic</b>	298-6311
<b>Commissary</b>	298-5815
<b>Contracting</b>	298-5439
<b>Dormitory manager</b>	298-5213
<b>EEO</b>	298-5879
<b>Finance</b>	298-5204
<b>FWA hotline</b>	298-4170
<b>Housing</b>	298-5904
<b>Information line</b>	298-5201
<b>Inspector General</b>	298-5638
<b>Legal</b>	298-5172
<b>MEO</b>	298-5400
<b>Military Personnel</b>	298-5073
<b>Public Affairs</b>	298-5988
<b>Security Forces</b>	298-5900
<b>Services</b>	298-5810

***"Through trust and teamwork, train expeditionary airpower experts to fight and win America's wars."***

— 47th Flying  
Training Wing  
mission statement

# Everyday is 'Wingman Day'

**AETC commander urges  
Airmen to turn upcoming  
policy, guidance to action**

**By Gen. Don Cook**  
*Air Education and  
Training Command  
commander*



**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE  
BASE** — In December, we took a down-day to combat accidental deaths and suicides in the Air Force.

However, Wingman Day was never intended to be a one-time "event." Rather, it was a reminder to be good wingmen every day.

The wingman concept extends to another issue we're confronting — reintegrating Airmen into "home station life."

Very shortly, the Air Staff will release policy to assist commanders in effectively reintegrating Airmen after they return from deployments.

As you may know from speaking with redeploying troops, their stress is real. Consider the Airmen performing the highly

dangerous mission of convoy security or serving on critical care air transport teams for the seriously wounded.

These courageous people have personally experienced the horrors of war, and they deserve the fullest support when they return home.

So with the arrival of the Air Force policy, it will be up to all of us to turn this guidance into action.

We need to take care of Airmen returning from the taxing challenges of a deployed environment. This is especially important in AETC, where our Airmen often lack the familiarity and security of deploying with their organizations.

How can you help?

First - Commanders, emphasize face-to face contact with your redeploying troops — and set the example.

Second - Have your Airmen take advantage of base agencies ready to support them and assist those struggling with reintegration.

Third - I ask those Airmen who have felt the hardships of reintegration to use your experience to coach and counsel those

who have recently redeployed.

Fourth - First Sergeants and supervisors should follow up. Research shows troops typically begin to manifest problems 3 to 6 months after they redeploy. Monitor this period closely to prevent challenges from becoming emergencies.

Finally - Everyone, don't forget about taking care of our Air Force families.

Reintegrating into family life after a deployment can be tough; I've been there.

Often the only one who will know how an Airman and family members are coping with reintegration is the Airman's co-worker or friend.

Thus, every Airman must be a wingman...that's the culture of expeditionary-minded wingman!

...And every day must be Wingman Day. We will lean heavily on this principle of airmanship as we answer our nation's call to duty.

We will be tested in the fire of expeditionary warfare abroad and the pressure of resource constraints at home — all the more reason to integrate a wingman mindset into everything we do.

## Freedom, from page 2

they try to navigate the obstacle course.

The guards think it's hilarious when our guys get stuck, but the barriers have locked in their Toyota Tercels that can't get over the humps. I guess the joke's on them.

I also see all the old Iraqi Air Force planes that lie around the base, destroyed and partially buried, mostly forgotten, but sometimes a reminder of how rapidly our air power got us to our current position. This base is now teeming with helicopters of all kinds, fighters, airlifters, and observation aircraft from all the services.

I feel safe and well-protected knowing that there are choppers on alert to respond to attacks on this position. I see them fly every



**2nd Lt. Eric Johnston, 47th Communications Squadron plans flight commander, deployed to Iraq Feb. 8 in support of current operations.**

morning sweeping, clearing, investigating, patrolling and deterring enemy attacks.

And, in case the Texas-theme isn't readily apparent already, I thank God for Texas since we are well-protected by the "Texas" barriers that surround all the important buildings here. These concrete barriers are aptly named for their size and durability. They stand over 12 feet and are 16 inches thick, and they lock together so they can't fall on you. It makes this place look like Stonehenge.

Although I miss home, my wife and dogs, I am grateful for the experience I've had so far in Iraq.

There is nothing like learning first hand what things are really like in this part of the world versus watching TV and guessing.

## Air Force personnel records to stay at AFPC

Airmen who retire or separate don't have to wait several months to receive requested copies of certain records because of a recent change in how the Air Force maintains personnel records.

The 49-year-old practice of sending nearly 5,500 personnel records each month to the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis ended in February as part of an effort to save money and give Airmen better access to their records, officials said.

People usually have a lengthy wait before receiving copies of their records from the NPRC, and it costs the Air Force around \$8 million a year to maintain records there," said Jo Hogue, chief of master personnel records at the Air Force Personnel Center here. "That price tag would keep increasing if we sent more records to the NPRC, and our customers wouldn't have the accessibility we'll be able to provide."

"(AFPC Airmen are) committed to providing state of the art, convenient, leading-edge service, and this is another step in the effort to make Air Force personnel records available online anytime," said Maj. Gen. Anthony F. Przybyslawski, AFPC commander. "We hope to be able to offer that capability to our active-duty customers sometime in the next few years."

In the meantime, former active-duty Airmen who retired or separated on or after Oct. 1, 2004, can request copies of records by writing to AFPC/DPFFCMP, 550 C St. W., Suite 19, Randolph AFB, TX 78150 or faxing (210) 565-4021 or DSN 665-4021.

People requesting their own records need to send a signed note that includes their name, Social Security number, contact information and spe-

cific record requested. Those requesting a relative's record also need to provide their relationship to the former Airman.

Former Guard and Reserve Airmen who retired or separated on or after Oct. 1, 2004, can write to HQ ARPC/PSDC, 6760 E. Irvington Place, Suite 4000, Denver, CO 80280 or fax (303) 676-7071 or DSN 926-7071.

Those who retired or separated before Oct. 1, 2004 can visit the NPRC Web site for record request instructions.

This change does not affect the disposition of medical and dental records, Mrs. Hogue said. They still will be stored permanently at the NPRC.

"From now on, all Air Force personnel records will be scanned for permanent electronic storage here in the Automated Records Management System, and the records that are already at the NPRC will stay there," Mrs. Hogue said. "Converting the records from paper to electronic also provides an additional backup version of each record."

Before this change, the paper copy that went to the NPRC was the only copy of a person's record; now there are two electronic versions in separate locations, Mrs. Hogue said. The new system's backups are approved by the National Archivist, the head of the National Archives and Records Administration, the federal agency responsible for preserving our nation's history.

The new backup systems allow the Air Force to again eliminate paper versions of records. From 1971 to 1994, AFPC destroyed the original copies of individual master personnel records because a microfilm copy was attached to the Unit Personnel Record Group



Photo by Tech. Sgt. James Brabenec

**Sam Ballard and Robert Weston load file boxes of records onto a pallet at Randolph Air Force Base in February. The boxes were part of the final 1,800 records in paper form to be delivered to the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. The automated records management systems branch at Randolph AFB will soon process all records in an electronically scanned format.**

that was forwarded to the NPRC, Mrs. Hogue said. When the first electronic record storage system started in 1995, AFPC began storing paper copies of master personnel records again because the new system did not provide a backup like the microfilm did.

Those who served or are currently serving on active duty can call the Air Force Personnel Contact Center more

information at (800) 616-3775, commercial (210) 565-5000 or DSN 665-5000.

Those who served or are serving in the Air National Guard or Reserve can call the Air Reserve Personnel Center at (800)525-0102.

(Courtesy  
Air Force Personnel Center)

### Pay, from page 1

regular pay, these troops also receive \$225 monthly in danger pay and a \$250 monthly family separation allowance.

Mr. Abell said that troops deployed to overseas combat zones also receive hardship duty pay of \$100 a

month and a \$105 monthly incidental expense allowance.

An accumulation of such added compensation typically amounts to more than \$700 a month for married servicemembers and more than \$500 for the typical single troop during deploy-

ment, he said.

"These pays and allowances acknowledge the hardship and danger involved at these deployment locations, as well as the sacrifice associated with tours away from family," Mr. Abell said.

He said that troops who volunteer to extend their

overseas tours of duty in combat zones like Afghanistan and Iraq also can receive an additional \$1,000 monthly in assignment incentive pay.

DOD officials also want to work with Congress, Mr. Abell said, to increase servicemembers' hardship duty pay. And the department

is seeking to keep its special operations troops in uniform through an array of incentive packages, he said.

For example, Mr. Abell said officials "are offering bonuses of up to \$150,000 for highly skilled senior noncommissioned officers to serve an additional six years."



## Two years in Iraq: Meeting needs of changing battle space

By Terri Lukach  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — On the second anniversary of Operation Iraqi Freedom’s “shock and awe” attacks on Baghdad, the Army’s senior logistician today described the challenges and changes involved in keeping today’s forces equipped and on the move, compared to past conflicts.

Three primary differences distinguish the war on terror from wars of the past, Lt. Gen. Claude V. Christianson said in an interview with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service.

The first is the enemy itself. “Today we face an enemy unlike any we have ever seen before,” he said. The second is the physical geography. This is the first war in which U.S. forces do not “own all the land” he said, referring to the noncontiguous nature of the battle space. There are “little islands that are relatively secure,” he said, “but they are not well-connected.”

This poses all kinds of problems, General Christianson said. “You have to be able to secure very long lines of communication — routes that can stretch up to 400 miles from the source of supply to the soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines that need those supplies.”

The third major difference, he said, is complexity — dealing with joint forces and coalition partners as well as contractors, other nations and nongovernment organizations, all providing support.

“That’s much different from even five years ago,” General Christianson said. To make it easier to provide logistical support to the battlefield, General Christianson said, the Army focused on four major areas. First was the need to connect all the logisticians so they could “understand and sense what was going on all across battlefield,” he said.

“Where before you could run up and down secure roads to get what you need,” he said, “today moving even 30 to 40 miles can be very dangerous. So, connectivity is critical to success.” General Christianson said the answer to the problem is “non-line-of-sight communications” — satellites — that

link the battle space to providers, whether forward-based or back in the United States. The satellites enable suppliers to understand what is happening on the battle space and respond to it.

He said satellites have cut response time dramatically, enabling requests for equipment and supplies to be fulfilled in hours, rather than a week.

The second area of focus was to put in place a distribution system that could respond once the logistical requirements were known. The third, General Christianson said, was an ability to rapidly get forces off ships and planes and into the operating area.

Finally, he said, the supply chain itself must be integrated from end to end — “from the foxhole to the factory.”

One good example of this — and also an example of the differences between the war on terror and past wars, General Christianson said — was the urgent need for armor protection for both individuals and vehicles.

At the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he said, the initial requirement for armored Humvees was very small — about 250. The requirement today is up over 10,000. At the start of OIF, the national production capacity was 15 per month. Today it’s more than 500 per month.

The same is true of individual body armor, General Christianson said. “When OIF started, we all had the older Kevlar armor. The new armor, just developed, was designated primarily for Special Forces. However, “once the war started,” he said, “we immediately wanted to provide that higher level of protection for everybody.”

It was impossible to deliver tens of thousands of sets, so the armor was prioritized for those considered most at risk, such as infantry. “In this war, however, some of the people most at risk are not infantry,” he said, citing truck drivers as an example. The total Army requirement for body armor today is just over 840,000 sets, and “we’ll reach that this year,” he said. “We’ve been able to outfit everyone going into the operational area for just over a year now, and every soldier going into Iraq has the newest body armor.”

Christian said the biggest challenge of the war in Iraq is fuel. U.S. and coalition forces use 800,000 to 1 million gallons of fuel every day. Most comes from Kuwait, Turkey and Jordan, he said, and the roads from there to Baghdad are very long.

The original objective was to, over time, buy fuel directly from Iraq, General Christianson said, but the Iraqi oil infrastructure was badly neglected. The goal going forward, he said, is simple: to gain as much efficiency as possible.

General Christianson called the men and women who work in the forward areas “absolutely incredible.”

“In fact, if you wanted to list the No. 1 thing that went well from the very first day, and continues today, it has to be the performance of the individual,” he said.

They have endured unbelievable hardships in delivering support, he said, especially knowing that they are the primary target for the enemy. “But they always deliver,” he added.

“I continue to be impressed every day with the quality of our men and women. They share a common understanding of their purpose, they know their teammates depend on them, they are well trained, and they just perform marvelously every day,” he said.



*Photos by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi*

### Practice makes perfect...

(Right) Airman Juan Navarro, 47th Aerospace Physiology technician, watches as 2nd Lt. Justin Bell, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 06-07, jumps off a 4-foot elevated platform during a parachute-landing fall training here Tuesday. All students of the SUPT classes here are trained on parachute descent and landing techniques by the 47th Aerospace Physiology before they fly.



## Graduation means all 27 Iraqi battalions now operational

By Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell  
Special to American Forces  
Press Service

With the graduation of nearly 1,500 soldiers at the Kirkush Military Training Base on March 20, all 27 battalions of nine brigades in the new Iraqi army are now operational.

Graduations at Numaniyah sent more than 3,000 new soldiers to units throughout Iraq, officials said, and next week, another 600 soldiers are expected to graduate from the Iraqi Training Battalion – adding roughly 5,000 new soldiers to the Iraqi army ranks.

The graduated soldiers are with the 13th, 14th and 15th battalions of the 5th Brigade, 3rd Division. They took an oath to protect their country, remain proficient in their soldiering skills, and obey the orders of their superiors during the graduation ceremony, the culmination of almost three months of training in basic soldiering skills at the base.

“Training is an essential tool to a combat soldier,” said Iraqi Gen. Am Jad, deputy chief of staff for training for the Iraqi army, in addressing the soldiers. “Be sure to carry everything you have learned here onto the battlefield.”

General Am Jad urged the soldiers to be “defenders of the defenseless.” He also called the graduation, and the completion of the force generation that began last summer, a new turning point for Iraq’s army. He thanked the U.S. and coalition forces that make up a base support unit at KMTB for their help in training the soldiers.

“We will be the light to lighten the darkness in this country,” Colonel Sabre, 2nd Regiment commander, told the soldiers. “We will protect the integrity of this country.”

Colonel Sabre also thanked the base support unit, the Ministry of Defense, and the people of Iraq “for their belief in this army.” He said the soldiers will protect them from terrorism.

“But understand, this will take time and patience until we eradicate those who are against us,” the colonel said. “The strength of our belief will guide us through the threat of terrorism, and we will work side by side, force by force, to protect our country.”

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Charles Marchione, an adviser with the base



Photos by Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

### Almost 1,500 newly trained Iraqi soldiers graduated from the Kirkush Military Training Base March 20.

support unit, said there was a marked improvement in the soldiers from when they arrived at the base as new recruits. The biggest strides, he said, have come as a result of developing a strong corps of noncommissioned officers. In the old Iraqi army, NCOs had no more authority than the most basic level soldier, he said.

“Now, we have the NCOs working more with the troops, taking care of their soldiers,” Sergeant Marchione said. “So they’ve made big improvements, but a lot of it is from having leadership.”

Sergeant Marchione said he is confident enough with the soldiers he helped train to go into a fight with them. His greatest fear in going to battle – whether with Iraqi or U.S. troops – is not knowing the people he’s fighting with. He doesn’t have that fear with the soldiers he watched graduate.

“We have the camaraderie,” Sergeant Marchione said. “That’s what’s been built here.”

The soldiers were released for a short period of leave after the ceremony. Many of them were planning to travel for as much as 10 hours to see their

families. Their spirits were high, though.

“I’m very happy,” said one soldier, through an interpreter. “I’m ready to go to the fight. I will fight terrorists not just here, but all through the world.”

Some were soldiers in the old Iraq army. They said the difference from then and now is like “blue and white.”

Now, they are trained to be defenders. They believe they have more technical skills as well, and credit U.S. soldiers who trained them.

A few soldiers also offered thanks and praise to President Bush.

“We like Mr. Bush,” one soldier said. “He saved us from the former regime.”



**New Iraqi soldiers demonstrate their skills in storming a building to capture the enemy during their March 20 graduation ceremony at Kirkush Military Training Base.**

# General explains new DOD sexual-assault policy

By Terri Lukach  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – The new guidelines for reporting incidents of sexual assault within the military create, for the first time, a Department of Defense standard that will both provide victims with the support they need after an incident occurs. The standard also will help commanders get to root cause of the problem, the head of the Pentagon joint task force for sexual assault prevention and response said here Tuesday.

In an interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel, Air Force Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain expanded on the new policy, announced March 18.

Before, General McClain said, there were “pockets of excellence” but no overarching policy for contending with sexual abuse. The new policy “provides a framework for how the department will respond,” she said.

The new guidelines are expected to take effect in mid-June.

“Sexual abuse crimes create a sense of powerless in the victim, a loss of control,” General

McClain said, “and the official investigative process can be overwhelming.”

It is primarily this sense of being overwhelmed and powerless that causes victims to forgo reporting an incident of sexual abuse, the general added.

The new policy allows the victim to report the incident and receive medical treatment, care and counseling while at the same time giving the victim more time and control over the release and management of personal information. In short, it allows the victim “to come forward without initiating the reporting process,” she said.

General McClain said the new policy will not limit commanders from addressing problems of abuse within their commands. “Quite the contrary,” she said. “Now commanders will have more information about the scope and nature of the problem within their organizations. It will allow them to adjust their prevention efforts and judge the effectiveness of their training program.”

It also creates a universal policy, across all services, General McClain said, which is particularly important in this new era of joint operations.

“It is critical that the same policy be applied

across the Department of Defense,” she said. “Otherwise, we could have different forms of confidentiality, or even different access to services, varying by location. That would not only be confusing,” she said, “but also inequitable.”

The message of the new policy, McClain said, is that while complete reporting and accountability is preferable, the first priority is to ensure that victims are protected, that they are treated with dignity and respect, and that they receive the medical treatment, care and support they deserve. Confidentiality does two things, General McClain said.

It gets victims the care and support they need, and it gives commanders information they don’t currently have that allows them to get at the root cause of sexual abuse.

“Everyone in the Department of Defense has a role in prevention and response — regardless of rank, position, duty title or assignment,” the general said. “That role, she added, is “to understand what behavior constitutes sexual assault, and to send a message to co-workers and friends that those behaviors are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.”

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Media Solutions



## Embedded training teams making history in Afghanistan

By Capt. Mirtha Villarreal  
*American Forces Press Service*

KABUL – For the first time in the history of the Afghanistan National Army, an embedded training team, will work with its unit from the first day of training. ANA soldiers are trained in kandaks, battalion-sized elements of 800 soldiers, then sent on missions throughout Afghanistan. The ETT's made up of coalition soldiers, mentors and trains the kandak in actual military operations.

Until now, the members of an ETT met their kandak for the first time on graduation day at the Kabul Military Training Center. They would then transport the kandak members to their assigned duty station.

ETTs now have the opportunity to build trust and bond with the ANA soldiers much earlier. More importantly, an ETT has a hand in its kandak's basic training, where in the past, training had to be conducted in the field after basic training.

"Being here from the beginning makes a difference in that we have the opportunity to help not only the new recruits but the leadership," said Maj. James A. Hanks. "We can ensure that the (noncommissioned officers and officers) understand their role and start the process of having them assume the re-



Photo by Capt. Mirtha Villarreal

**The 35th Kandak's recruits take aim at their targets during weapons qualification at the Kabul Military Training Center. In the first week of training, the recruits' abilities with their weapons improved dramatically over the performance of previous kandaks.**

sponsibility and accountability of that role."

Soldiers processed into the 35th Kandak come from provinces across Afghanistan.

They arrived early in March in civilian clothing. Some of the clothing was western, some was traditional; most wore a combination of both in a visual representation of the changes taking

place in Afghanistan.

Ages are difficult to discern, as there is no birth registry in Afghanistan nor a national identification process. The ETT members look on in amazement as some new recruits appear to be in their early teens and others could be grandparents.

The motley crew quickly transforms into a military unit. Soldiers are issued uniforms, boots and a sleeping mat. The ANA training cadre instructs the soldiers in proper wear of their uniform. It's the first pair of boots for some soldiers, who must be taught how to tie shoelaces.

Marching commands, rank identification, and equipment familiarization take up much of the first week. The literacy rate among the new recruits is about 30 percent, which means instruction must be hands-on and repetitive, as study materials are limited and not particularly useful.

March 17 marked the end of the first week of training for Kandak 35. Already the number of soldiers qualifying on their weapons in the first week has increased from the past.

"If this is any indicator of future performance due to the ETT presence, the ETTs will help the ANA operate as a more cohesive and disciplined military organization," Major Hanks said.

## President Bush nominates 2005 base closure commissioners

By Samantha Quigley  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – President Bush nominated eight people March 15 to serve on 2005's Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

Their names go to Capitol Hill for Senate confirmation.

The nominees are:

- n Former Nevada Rep. James H. Bilbray, who was a member of committees on foreign affairs, armed services and intelligence. He served in the Army Reserve from 1955 to 1963.
- n Philip Coyle of California, a senior adviser to the Center for Defense Information. He has served at DoD as an assistant secretary of defense and as director of operational test and evaluation.
- n Retired Navy Adm. Harold W. Gehman Jr. of Virginia. He served more than 35 years on active duty, and his last assignment was as NATO's supreme allied commander, Atlantic, and as commander of U.S. Joint Forces Command.

n Former Utah Rep. James V. Hansen, who served on the House Armed Services Committee. He served in the Navy from 1951 to 1955.

n Retired Army Gen. James T. Hill of Florida. He served 36 years, and his last assignment was as commander of U.S. Southern Command.

n Retired Army Lt. Gen. Claude M. Kicklighter, assistant secretary for policy and planning at the Veterans Affairs Department. He served in the Army for nearly 36 years.

n Samuel Knox Skinner of Illinois, who served as President George H.W. Bush's chief of staff and as secretary of transportation. He served in the Army Reserve from 1960 to 1968.

n Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Sue Ellen Turner of Texas, a member of the American Battle Monuments Commission. She served for 30 years, most recently as the director of nursing services in the Office of the Air Force Surgeon General.

Base realignment and closure is the process DoD uses to reorganize its installation infrastructure. This reorganization allows more efficient and effective

support of forces as well as a way to increase! readiness, officials said.

Defense officials said DoD's process will not vary much from the past BRAC rounds. But this year's BRAC process includes a statutory requirement that the military value of an installation be a primary element of the criteria used in deciding whether an installation needs to be closed or realigned.

Military value includes criteria such as bases' mission capabilities now and in the future, and space available for force maneuver.

The review will also consider the bases' ability to accommodate contingency and future force requirements and will look at the bases' operations costs and manpower implications.

The secretary of defense must submit a list of installations recommended for closure or realignment to Congress and the BRAC commission by May 16. By Sept. 8, the commission must send its recommended BRAC list to the president, who has till Sept. 23 to approve or disapprove the findings.



# Officials recognize company for contributions to war on terror

By Staff Sgt. Todd Lopez  
*Air Force Print News*

Air Force officials recognized FedEx for the company’s support to the military during the war on terror with a brief surprise ceremony at the Pentagon on Tuesday.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper presented Frederick W. Smith, FedEx chief executive officer, with a certificate of appreciation and an Air Force chief of staff medallion.

The general told Mr. Smith Air Force officials recognize the company has gone beyond the call of duty in much of the support it has provided to the military.

“We have a great appreciation for all that FedEx does for us out there,” General Jumper said. “We know that you do a lot of things that don’t really

benefit you economically, and you do it because it’s for the troops.”

Mr. Smith responded by crediting the many employees of FedEx, citing their pride in serving the military.

“I want you to know I accept this on behalf of the 250,000 men and women who make up the FedEx team,” Mr. Smith said. “All of us in commercial business appreciate your service and the sacrifices many of you make defending us.”

Air Force officials recognized the shipping company for the many efforts it made outside its contractual obligations to the Air Force.

For instance, FedEx began providing shipping services to Iraq in May 2003, even though the company had not provided service to the country before. That work was not part of an

Air Force contract until October 2004.

To minimize potential terrorist threats, and outside of any contract specification, Air Force officials requested FedEx use citizens of either America or allied nations to deliver packages in high threat areas. FedEx complied with the request.

Normally, the company would hire personnel from the local population to conduct those deliveries.

Finally, to help the Air Force deliver much needed supplies for both operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, FedEx agreed to carry what are categorized as “dangerous goods” — items like batteries and flammables.

The company’s willingness to transport such supplies freed up military transport for other uses.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Roy A. Santana

## Into the wild blue yonder...

**An F-15 Eagle takes off into the morning sky as another one taxis out on the tarmac. Aircraft, aircrews, maintainers and support Airmen from around the world were at Nellis Air Force Base March 14 participating in Red Flag, an exercise that tests warfighting skills in real-time combat situations. More than 10,000 servicemembers from all four military branches, along with troops of some coalition forces participated in the event.**

5X5.5  
City of Del Rio





Chief Master Sgt. Ron Prothro, 47th Mission Support Group, helps get rid of weeds at the Seminole Indian Scout Cemetery during a clean-up session March 18.



Airman 1st Class Oscar Vargas, 47th Communications Squadron, cleans up a grave at the Seminole Cemetery March 18. More than 15 Laughlin members volunteered for the clean up.

## Airmen help refurbish Seminole cemetery

Story and photos by  
**Airman 1st Class  
Olufemi Owolabi**  
*Editor*

Laughlin members trooped out as a team March 18 to refurbish the Seminole Indian Scout Cemetery near Brackettville.

The group of XLers mowed grass and cut weeds around headstones during the project to clean up the cemetery.

“This project lets the community know that we care about them....and when we get involved with the community around us, I believe it makes the community want to be more involved with the base,” said Senior Airman Jennifer Whitesides, 47th Medical Group bioenvironmental engineering flight apprentice.

Airman Whitesides, who also volunteered for last year’s project at the cemetery, said it was a good project to be involved with.

The cemetery is the burial site of four Medal of Honor recipients. It is maintained by the Seminole Indian

Scouts Association, a group of scout descendants.

The project helps create a positive relationship between the Brackettville community and Laughlin. It also shows that Laughlin does not only care for their own members, but cares for others also.

Airman 1st Class Jessica Johnson, 47th Medical Operations Squadron, said she volunteered for the project so that she could make an impact in the community other than the base.

“(Before I decided to volunteer), I thought it would be nice to do something for the community and not just for the base,” Airman Johnson said. “I think the community of Brackettville really appreciated our help and I am sure all of us were proud to do it.”

Furthermore Airmen Johnson said she would love to participate again whenever the time for another project comes.

A group of Laughlin volunteers periodically helps maintain the cemetery as needed. Laughlin members were also joined by members of Randolph Air Force Base’s 19th Air Force to clean up the cemetery.



Airmen 1st Class Jennifer Whitesides and Jessica Johnson, 47th Medical Group, help clear debris around the headstone of a grave.



## Creating a road map to financial stability

Program helps Airmen manage money better, offers aid to those with unique circumstances

**Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill**  
*Public Affairs*

Whether Airmen are seeking help with financial problems or looking to manage or invest their money better, Laughlin's Personal Financial Management Program offers a variety of assistance.

The program is run by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Williams, personal financial manager and Air Force Aid officer here.

"My job is to inform, educate and counsel personnel on financial matters," said Sergeant Williams. "I help individuals and families maintain financial stability and reach their financial goals."

The financial manager said that by having this program available, servicemembers can stay financially sound and focused on the mission.

The program, one of many offered by the Family Support Center, is open and free of charge to active duty members and Department of Defense civilians.

Sergeant Williams averages up to 50 clients per month who vary by age and grade. He routinely briefs the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot

Training classes, First Term Airmen Center students and second-term Airmen when they first arrive to base. In addition, he makes appointments with clients who visit him about their finances.

"Most people come to see me on budgeting matters, and how to invest and save money," he said. "We're getting a lot of young people, enlisted and officer, who are very money-savvy on saving and investing. They may have an extra \$100 and want to know what they should do with it."

Sergeant Williams said he advises them on what they should do. However, if there is something he's not as knowledgeable about, he refers them to other experts on base who can help and give them advice about financial matters.

The personal financial manager also sees a number of people who spend money before they get it, and find themselves in high credit card debt or in trouble with bills and payday loans.

"I'll do a budget with them and send them back out there to work with that," Sergeant Williams said. "They'll return to visit me the next pay period. I'll look at their budget



**Tech. Sgt. Anthony Williams**  
Personal financial manager

and determine if anything changed. We'll do that for a few months to see if they get back on track."

Sergeant Williams said once the bills or loans are paid off, Airmen will have extra money to spend.

"We'll then talk about investing that money or putting it into some type of savings," he said. "And, if they ever need help again, they are more than welcome to revisit me."

As the Air Force Aid officer, Sergeant Williams said there are times people will have unique situations and need financial help.

"A person may have an emergency, such as a family member is ill or dies, and needs to get home but

doesn't have enough money. Or, there may be a problem with a military member's house and the family needs a place to stay, but doesn't have enough funds," he said. "They can come and see me. I'll help them complete an Air Force Aid application and get them home to be with their loved ones or assist their family with their emergency housing situation."

Sergeant Williams emphasized Air Force Aid is for unique or emergency situations, and can't be used to help people with credit card debt or similar financial problems.

"There is help if anyone ever finds themselves in a financial bind or is interested in investing and saving money," he said. "If someone is having financial difficulty or even just a little concerned about their finances, I ask that they give me a call. I'll sit down with them and help work something out."

To make an appointment with the personal financial manager, call 298-5109.

**Editor's note:** *This is the second article of a two-part series on the military consumer and personal financial management. The first article, published in the March 18 Border Eagle, focused on being aware of payday loan pitfalls.*

### The military consumer: how to cut unnecessary spending

The Personal Financial Management Program staff here encourages people to control their personal finances by setting goals, creating a budget and cutting expenses.

The staff provides the following tips on trimming expenses:

#### Shopping

- Use your base commissary and exchange. Prices may be better than at civilian stores.
- Use coupons for additional savings on items you need to buy.
- Keep in mind that nonfood items may be more expensive at supermarkets.

-- Rent tools and equipment you don't use often, instead of buying them.

#### Food

- Plan meals so you can shop with a list.
- Buy fruit and vegetables that are in season.
- Pack your lunches and snacks instead of buying them.

#### Clothing

- Take advantage of off-season sales.
- Avoid dry cleaning bills by buying only machine-washable clothes.
- Consider buying from used-clothing stores.

#### Transportation/Travel

- Have regular maintenance done on your vehicle to avoid costly repairs.
- Use the lowest octane gas recommended by your car manufacturer.
- Ask about military discounts for hotels, motels, rental cars, etc.
- Buy plane tickets well in advance for the best rates.

#### Entertainment

- Look into free events for adults and children offered around your base or town. The local chamber of commerce will have more information about local events.

### Financial Seminars

Family Support Center  
Conference Room

11 a.m. to Noon

March 28

Purchasing  
Supplemental  
Life Insurance

April 1

Car-Buying Seminar

April 8

Preparing Income  
Tax Returns

Sign up today!  
Call 298-5109

The *XLer*

*Pamela Gonzales*  
*Civilian Personnel Flight*

**Hometown:** Parsons, W. Va.  
**Family:** Husband - Andy, Sons, Shaun and Chris  
**Time at Laughlin:** 10 year  
**Time in civil service:** Seven years  
**Greatest accomplishment:** Raising my children  
**Hobbies:** Reading and Shopping  
**Bad habit:** Procrastination  
**Favorite movies:** Science fiction and mysteries  
**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?** My father, he died before I could listen to all of his stories about life and family.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi

Spring flowers available April 2

Flowers will be available at the Pride Store starting April 2 during normal business hours Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. A variety of flowers will be available on a first come-first serve basis. Each household is limited to one tray (36 flowers) until supply is depleted. Call the Pride Store at 298-4356 for information.

Mobile home park

The base housing office has compiled a list of questions and answers regarding the mobile home park closure that can be found at <https://home.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/support/ces/housing/mobilehome.htm>. Residents who have questions not addressed on the web page are encouraged to stop by the Housing Office, building 468, or call 298-5733 or 298-5904.

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*Amistad Dentistry*

2X5  
*Military Media*



# Chapel Holy Week Schedule

**Catholic:**

Today: 1 Good Friday Liturgy, 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday: .1 Easter Vigil, 6:30 p.m.  
Sunday: 1 Easter Sunday, 9:30 a.m.  
All services celebrated at the chapel

**Protestant**

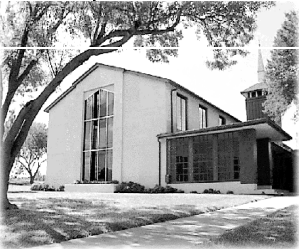
Today: 1 Good Friday Service (Chapel): Noon.  
Sunday: 1 Easter Sunday Services  
1 Easter Sunrise(Chapel lawn): 6:30-7 a.m.  
1 Free breakfast (Chapel Narthex): 7 a.m.  
1 Contemporary (Theater): 9 a.m  
1 General Protestant (Chapel): 11 a.m.

**Chaplain Staff**

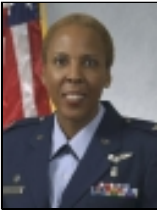
Wing chaplain: Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim,  
Roman Catholic  
Senior Protestant: Chap. (Capt.) Terri Gast,  
Presbyterian Church, USA  
Protestant: Chap. (Capt.) Alex Jack,  
Independent Christian Church  
Protestant: Chap. (Capt.) Kenneth Fisher,  
Evangelical Church Alliance

For more information on other denominations, chapel events or services, call 298-5111. For information on special events, see the Community Calendar on page 16.

3X11  
RICKS



2X2  
DEL RIO Art  
League



What's  
up Doc?

By Col. Laura Torres-Reyes  
47th Medical Group  
commander

**Question:** I am enrolled in Tri-Care Prime. I recently needed to have my eyes examined and was referred to a local optometrist downtown.

I was informed this was due to manning shortages in the optometry clinic at the MTF. I was also informed that there would not be a co-payment required since I was referred.

Today, I was at the Tri-Care desk on another matter and I asked about the "co-pay" for my eye ap-

pointment. I was informed that there would be a co-pay; it was required by law.

Can you please clarify this issue?

I was under the impression that if I couldn't be seen at the MTF and was referred downtown that there would be no out of pocket expense.

**Answer:** You are absolutely right; a co-pay was not required.

You were scheduled for an annual preventive screening eye exam, so there is no co-pay for that service. Tri-Care Prime active duty family members may receive an annual routine eye examination from any network provider without referral, authorization, or preauthorization from the primary care manager.

A Prime active-duty family member will be allowed to set up

his or her own appointment for a comprehensive eye examination with a network optometrist or ophthalmologist. Standard active-duty family members may self-refer to an optometrist or ophthalmologist regardless of whether or not they are a network provider.

It is important to know that if a condition is diagnosed during the annual screening, any additional visits will require a referral from your primary care manager and pre-authorization by Tri-Care.

If you need additional information regarding your Tri-Care benefits, please contact Mrs. Michelle Gillans at 298-6350.

Thank you for your question!

You can contact our Family Care provider on call for advice and authorization for emergency care from 4:30 p.m. to 7 a.m. Monday through Friday, weekends, and holidays at 703-6199.

You may contact Colonel Torres-Reyes at [laura.torres-reyes@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:laura.torres-reyes@laughlin.af.mil) if you have a What's Up Doc? question.



Want to join  
an Air Force  
Sports Team?

Go to  
[www.USAFSports.com](http://www.USAFSports.com)

View the  
Calendar  
for upcoming  
training  
camps for  
basketball,  
softball and  
shooting

Falcon pole vaulter named All-American

SAN ANTONIO — Air Force Academy pole vaulter Paul Gensic earned All-American honors following a third-place performance at the 2005 NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships on March 11 in Fayetteville, Ark.

Gensic cleared a height of 18 feet 1/2 inch and tied with the University of Nebraska's Ray Scotten and the University of Oklahoma's Scott Martin for the second-best height of the night, finishing only second to the University of Oregon's Tommy Skipper whose winning vault was 18-4 1/2. A tie-breaking procedure was used to determine final placement with Scotten placing second and Martin

fourth.

In men's tennis action, the Falcons won a pair of home matches March 12, defeating Oral Roberts University and Colorado School of Mines, each by a 6-1 score. They have won five consecutive matches and are 13-3 this season. They met Stetson University in Deland, Fla. on Monday.

In College Hockey America tournament play, the Falcon hockey team advanced to the semifinals for the first time in three years after edging Wayne State University in overtime, 4-3.

In the semifinal round, however, the Falcon season ended when they ran into top-seeded Bemidji State, getting

shut out 6-0. Air Force finished the year with a 14-19-3 overall record.

The academy baseball team was swept in a double-header at the University of Northern Colorado on March 8, losing game one, 8-4, and game two, 9-3. The Falcons drop to 4-13 on the season. They took a week off from competition until March 18 when they opened Mountain West Conference play at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

With its continuing offensive woes, the Air Force women's basketball team ended their season by losing in the opening round of the Mountain West Conference

Championships to second-seed University of Utah, 63-42. The Falcons wrap up their season with a 7-21 ledger.

In lacrosse, the Falcons dropped to 2-2 on the season after being bested by the University of Pennsylvania Quakers on March 10, 6-3. Despite outshooting the Quakers, the Falcons had trouble finding the net.

The Falcons had 13 days off before embarking upon a five-game road swing. After their 13-day off they met the Western Lacrosse League opponent Fairfield University on Thursday.

(Courtesy Air Force Print News)

1X2  
Animal  
House

1X3  
Cinema

2X2  
Franks Auto  
Electronics

2X2  
Veranda